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# Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 /063 W
---------- 040386
R 191300Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8232
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1140

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MI, PFOR. RH. ZA
SUBJECT: PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA

SUMMARY: DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SEPT 18 ANC PRESIDENT BISHOP MUZOREWA EXPRESSED STRONG BELIEF NKOMO HAS MADE DEAL WITH SMITH. HE SAID PLANS NO FURTHER ANC MOVE FOR 2-3 WEEKS APPARENTLY WITH IDEA IN THIS PERIOD NKOMO'S TRUE COLORS WILL BE EVIDENT TO ALL. BISHOP SEEMED DISPIRITED AND ALMOST BEMUSED BY PRESENT SITUATION. HE EXPRESSED TOTAL LACK CONFIDENCE IN POSSIBILITY OF COMING TO TERMS WITH SMITH BUT SEMMED TO HAVE NO IDEAS AS TO HOW BREAK OUT OF PRESENT IMPASSE. FOR LACK OF OTHER VIABLE OPTIONS BISHOP SEEMS ALMOST RESIGNED TO INEVITABILITY OF ARMED STRUGGLE.

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM HAD HOUR'S PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA ON SEPT 18 AT HIS HOTEL IN BLANTYRE. HE CAME HERE ON CHURCH BUSINESS ACCOMPANIED BY AMERICAN CITIZEN, REV. T. L. CURTIS, METHODIST DISTRICT SUPT. FOR RHODESIA. BISHOP WAS RELAXED AND TALKATIVE AND SEEMED GLAD FOR OPPORTUNITY TO STATE HIS VIEWS. HE IS RETURNING TO LUSAKA ON 19TH.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ON ANC SPLIT MUZOREWA EXPRESSED
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STRONG SUSPICION NKOMO HAS MADE A DEAL WITH SMITH AND IS WORKING

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WITH HIM TO BREAK UP ANYC. "HOW IS IT, HE SAID, "THAT A MAN
WHO WAS JAILED FOR ELEVEN YEARS BY THE SMITH REGIME AS A
SUBVERSIVE HAS SUDDENLY BECOME A RESPONSIBLE AND REASONABLE
LEADER WITH WHOM SMITH CAN WORK?" ASKED IF PRESIDENT KAUNDA
SHARES THIS VIEW HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL AND FROM THIS AND OTHER
REMARKS RE MARK CHONA WE GOT THE IMPRESSION HE FEELS KAUNDA
IS SUPPORTING NKOMO AT LEAST TO SOME DEGREE. RE RECENT FIGHT
AT ANC CAMP HE WAS ALSO NON-COMMITTAL CITING ONLY PRESIDENT
KAUNDA'S ALLEGATION RE INVOLVEMENT OF SMITH AGENTS. HE WAS
POSITIVE IN HIS ASSERTION THAT OLD TRIBAL ENMITIES ARE IN
NO WAY INVOLVED IN SPLIT BUT LATER QUOTED NKOMO AS SAYING TO
ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES RE AN ANC LEADER "HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT
THAT MASHONA?" IN ANSWER TO QUESTION HE WAS EQUALLY POSITIVE THAT
CHICOM SUPPORT FOR ZANU AND SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ZAPU HAS PLAYED
NO PART.

3. ANC STRATEGY ACCORDING BISHOP HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE
MAINTAIN UNITY OF MOVEMENT UNTIL POLITICAL STRUGGLE WON

IN THIS THEY HAVE THE STEADFAST SUPPORT OF THE FOUR PRESIDENTS.
IF NKOMO WOULD CALL OFF MEETING HE WOULD BE WELCOME BACK BUT
HE IS NOW DEFINITELY EXPELLED. HIS ACCUSATIONS RE ZIMBABWE
LIBERATION COUNCIL ARE COMPLETE DISTORTIONS. FORMATION OF
ZLC WAS AGREED UPON LAST JANUARY BY ALL MEMBERS OF ANC BUT
ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS AND PRESSURES OF OTHER WORK PRECLUDED
ITS BECOMING ACTIVE UNTIL RECENTLY. ORIGINAL 16 MEMBERS OF
ZLC NOW INCREASED TO 21 IN EFFORT GET ALL FACTIONS ON BOARD.
NEED FOR ACTIVATION EVIDENT IN FAILURE OF BRIDGE TALKS AND
INCREASED PROSPECT OF VIOLENT STRUGGLE.

4. MUZOREWA WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT CHANCES OF MAKING SMITH
SEE REASON ALTHOUGH HE FEELS VORSTER, WHOM HE DESCRIBED WITHOUT
ENTHUSIASM AS "IMPRESSIVE" COULD FORCE SMITH TO COME TO TERMS
BY MAKING CLEAR TO HIM THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL SOUTH
AFRICA PROVIDE MILITARY AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN EVENT OF
SHOW DOWN WITH ANC. HE HOLDS NO HOPE OF REACHING AGREEMENT
WITH OTHER RHODESIAN LEADERS OBSERVING THAT ANY SUCCESSOR TO
SMITH WOULD LIKELY BE WORSE.

5. MUZOREWA INDICATED HE PLANS NO FURTHER MOVE FOR TWO OR
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THREE WEEKS. END OF THIS MONTH HE PLANS TO ACCEPT RECENT
INVITATION GO TO NORWAY TO RECEIVE DONATION.

6. COMMENT: BISHOP IS OBVIOUSLY DISCOURAGED BY FAILURE OF
BRIDGE TALKS AND THE ANC SPLIT. HOWEVER THESE ADVERSE DEVELOP-
MENTS SEEM NOT TO HAVE FORCED HIM INTO AN AGGRESSIVE POSTURE
OR FRAME OF MIND. RATHER HE REFLECTED ON THIS OCCASION A
HAMLET-LIKE UNCERTAINTY. AT TIMES HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT

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EVENTS WERE CLEARLY BEYOND HIM BUT WHILE HE WAS CAREFUL
TO SAY HE WOULD PREFER A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT HE IMPLIED THAT
THE PRESENT DRIFT IS CLEARLY TOWARD ARMED STRUGGLE. DURING
PRESENT HIATUS IN HIS ANC ACTIVITIES HE CLEARLY EXPECTS NKOMO
TO EXPOSE HIS TRUE COLORS AS SMITH COLLABORATOR AA IN
EFFECT HIS TACTIC SEEMS TO BE IF WE GIVE NKOMO ENOUGH ROPE
HE WILL HANG HIMSELF WITH SMITH'S NECKTIE. IT WOULD BE MY GUESS
THAT HE IS NOW AND WILL BE MORE AND MORE INFLUENCED IN HIS
THINKING BY MILITANTS NDABANINGI SITHOLE AND JAMES CHIKEREMA.
ON THE LOCAL SCENE MALAWIANS ARE CRITICAL OF THE BISHOP'S FAILURE
TO RETURN TO SALISBURY AS WAS THE ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN A RECENT
CONVERSATION WITH ME.
STEVENSON

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**TAGS:** PFOR, MI, RH, ZA, ANC, (MUZOREWA, ABEL), (SMITH, IAN), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
**To:** STATE
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